

From: [Paul Lowrey](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Heiken, Emma \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: D7 Participatory Budgeting Funding Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:22:24 PM

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At the direction of Ms. Heiken, I'm sending the following letter intended for the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors to Brent Jalipa. Please see that the following is forwarded to the appropriate people.

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8/27/24

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee Chan, Mandelman, Melgar, Walton, and Peskin:

I'm a resident of District 7 and have actively participated more than once in the Participatory Budgeting process first organized by Supervisor Yee. This year I assisted, as a volunteer, participating in vetting the proposals my fellow community members submitted. I understand that Supervisor Melgar has brought forward an ordinance that would ensure full funding of the projects that have already been proposed, vetted, and voted upon by District 7 residents. I strongly urge you to pass the "De-Appropriation and Appropriation - District 7 General City Responsibility - District 7 Projects and Services - Various Departments - \$549,950 - FY2024-2025" ordinance.

I urge you to vote in favor of the ordinance to demonstrate your commitment to the following:

Increased Community Engagement and Trust

Participatory budgeting directly involves residents in decision-making, leading to greater civic participation, improved trust in government, and a stronger sense of community ownership. This process educates citizens on municipal budgeting, increases transparency, and fosters better relationships between the community and local officials.

More Effective and Innovative Solutions

By tapping into collective intelligence and local knowledge, participatory budgeting often results in more innovative and effective solutions to community challenges. Residents can offer unique perspectives and ideas that officials may not have considered, leading to better-targeted use of public funds and improved outcomes for the community.

Enhanced Equity and Representation

Participatory budgeting provides historically underrepresented groups - such as youth, low-income residents, and minorities - with meaningful opportunities to influence local policy-making. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse

community needs are addressed, promoting greater equity in public spending and strengthening democratic participation across all segments of the population

Thank you for considering these reasons to support the participatory budgeting process, which believe should be expanded City-wide, and for helping me and my fellow residents see our projects through to completion by fully funding them.

Sincerely,

Paul M Lowrey

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From: [Gregangelo Herrera](#)
To: [Alisa Brent, BSA](#)
Subject: District 7 participatory budgetting letter of support
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:17:34 PM
Attachments: [letter.docx](#)

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Hello Brent,

Just wanted to send in a letter of support regarding this ordinance for district 7 participatory budgetting projects

City and County of San Francisco - File
#: 242765
[sf.gov/legistar.com](#)

I am born and raised in San Francisco my whole life and lived in district 7 for the past 40 years.

It has been wonderful to see the many safety, community and arts Beautification projects approved to the participatory budget program and I look forward to seeing them all come to light. Notably there's been lots of great stuff happening at Lakeside Village on the ocean Avenue corridor that truly exemplifies revitalizing the various Westside neighborhoods.

With the shifting post Covid collapse of our city's travel destinations, I'm even hopeful that some of these Westside neighborhoods might start to see some interest with travelers and tourists as the participatory budget improvements bring more attention.

Grateful,

Gregangelo Herrera
Artistic Director
(415) 664-0095 >> Office
(415) 608-0095 >> Cell

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From: [Julie Hambleton](#)
To: [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Marie Cecile Van De Lavoie](#)
Subject: District 7 Participatory Budget: Pedestrian Safety Along Yerba Buena Avenue
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 3:16:12 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Brent,

I am writing on behalf of Monterey Heights and D7 residents, in support of Supervisor Melgar's ordinance to allocate funds for winning 2024 PB projects.

The Monterey Heights Housing Association (MHHA) PB proposal, also supported by Westwood Highlands, Sherwood Forest & St. Francis Woods, received > 400 D7 residents' votes in support of our Traffic Calming proposal described below.

MHHA 2024 PB Project Overview -

Proposal: Install push-button activated flashing beacons on both sides of the raised crosswalk.

Goal: In keeping with the citywide Vision Zero & Pedestrian Safety PB category, we want to make it safer for pedestrians to cross Yerba Buena Avenue, especially those heading to the SFMTA Bus Stops, by installing push-button activated flashing beacons at the raised crosswalk on Yerba Buena, just south of the complicated intersection of Yerba Buena, Casitas & Hazelwood Avenues.

MHHA proposed an upgrade to the **dangerous crosswalk on Yerba Buena (YB) Avenue, just south of the large intersection with Casitas & Hazelwood Avenues.** Yerba Buena is a thoroughfare used by drivers throughout the city, especially as a short cut from the southern parts of SF to the Sunset District, Southwest & Central parts of the city. Additionally, the SFMTA 43 Bus travels in both directions on Yerba Buena, and is heavily used by middle school, high school and City College students as well as by other adults traveling from the Monterey Heights, Sherwood Forest & Westwood Highland neighborhoods.

While speed humps and a raised crosswalk with signs have recently been installed, pedestrians crossing Yerba Buena remain at risk for significant injury due to a) limited visibility as cars drive up the hill from either direction, b) the 3-part intersection just north of the crosswalk, and c) vehicular high speeds. This issue is particularly heightened at night and/or with dense fog.

Flashing lights, initiated by a pedestrian planning to cross the street, will further improve drivers' awareness and prompt drivers to slow down.

Funding Request: \$42,000 (estimated cost of installing push-button activated flashing beacon pair)

Location: Yerba Buena Ave, just south of the intersection that includes Casitas and Hazelwood Avenues.

Please note: We have met, on site, with Damon Curtis, Manager of Traffic Calming, SFMTA to discuss this, and we have SFMTA's endorsement.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important project at the September 4th Budget & Finance Committee vote.

Best,
Julie Hambleton

MHHA Board member & Secretary
D7 PB POC for MHHA

cc: Marie-Cecile Van De Lavoie
MHHA Board President

From: [Daniel Walsh](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Heiken, Emma \(BOS\)](#); [John Fisher](#); [Carl Wendorf](#)
Subject: Support for District 7 Participatory Budget Zero Visibility Project
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 8:59:02 AM

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Dear members of San Francisco's Budget and Finance Committee,

We are a group of concerned citizens residing in the neighborhoods of Forest Hill Extension & West Portal who have long wanted safety improvements to calm traffic cutting through our neighborhood and increase visibility of pedestrians. After the tragic accident that occurred in West Portal in the spring of this year, a few of us partnered together and developed a proposal to improve an intersection not far from there that suffered from a multitude of safety issues.

Laguna Honda and Ulloa Streets form a complex intersection where cars often roll through racing to make the light to turn on Portola. This intersection has no signage or lights, and pedestrians crossing Laguna Honda are not visible to the approaching cars. To make the situation more dangerous, the intersection is immediately in front of St Brendan's Church and its K-8 school. If you polled most people in our neighborhood, they'd likely tell you their own stories of almost being hit here along with plenty of ideas on how to make improvements. Our proposal is to install flashing beacons and a median on Laguna Honda to provide visibility and safety for elderly individuals, parents, and students as they cross these wide streets with safety.

This year, we took part in the submission for Participatory Budgeting through Supervisor Melgar's office and outlined a thorough plan for our proposal. This was approved with significant buy-in and votes from our neighborhood, and we are excited by the prospect of getting funding to have this plan implemented.

For the three of us, we love our city and our neighborhood and we want to invest in it so it flourishes. Our families and friends deserve peace of mind and modern infrastructure to ensure that we can navigate our streets safely. We know that you'll be voting on an ordinance to unlock budgeting for these projects, and **we feel that these funds would make a significant impact in a lot of people's daily lives and are consistent with the City's vision zero policies.** We urge passage of this budget item and look forward to SFMTA advancing this important safety project as soon as possible.

Please reach out if any of us can help with clarifying any details of the proposal.

Warm regards,

Dan Walsh danwalsh200@gmail.com
John Fisher jfishertx@yahoo.com
Carl Wendorf carlwendorf@gmail.com

August 30, 2024

Dear Members of the San Francisco Participatory Budget and Finance Committee,

My family has resided in Westwood Park for the past 40 years. My paternal ancestors were lured to California during the days of the Gold Rush, but eventually settled in San Francisco.

At that time, the neighborhood of Westwood Park was just a dream. The 1906 earthquake shook the City, and residents left in droves. In an attempt to bring them back, the City fathers and developers realized that homes needed to be built for middle class residents. Westwood Park was one of those neighborhoods. In 1917, the first home in Westwood Park was finished. Today, the majority of our more than 650 homes are 100-years-old.

The neighborhood's Entrance Gates and Pillars were designed by a well-respected architect of the era, Louis Christian Mullgardt. They were built on Miramar Avenue at Ocean Avenue, and on Miramar at Monterey Boulevard. (The Gates on Ocean Avenue at Miramar Avenue no longer exist.) Among other things, Mullgardt led the redesign of the De Young Museum in the early 1900s. He also designed the 1916 Juvenile Court and Detention Home at 150 Otis Street (San Francisco Landmark #248), and the Infant Shelter at 19th Avenue and Ortega Avenue. The Infant Shelter is now a private French school - and Landmark #242.

Westwood Park takes pride in its contribution to the development of the City of San Francisco. I urge you to support our neighborhood's plan to preserve and protect our 108-year-old remaining, historic, Entrance Gates and Pillars – San Francisco Landmark #314.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Beitiks

85 Hazelwood Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94112

kobeitiks@gmail.com

From: [Sally Maske](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Heiken, Emma \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: District 7 Participatory Budget Funding
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 2:34:32 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Brent - I have been referred to you by Emma Heiken, District 7 Legislative Aid for Supervisor Melgar. This email is in relation to the importance of D7 Participatory Budget (PB) items for 2024.

While I understand the need to trim the San Francisco City Budget, trimming the PB items would do more harm than good and create "bad will" for the City. Many residents have spent time and effort on the various proposals that were voted on by D7 residents including the one I assisted with involving Murals for West Portal.

Many of the PB items related to public safety and improving neighborhoods to keep them VIBRANT which is an overall theme for the City of San Francisco. Strong consideration should be made to making budget cuts in other places.

If you would like to learn more about West Portal's needs for murals, please reach out. Our neighborhood has had a difficult time with graffiti.

Regards,
Sally Maske
35 year resident of West Portal
Member Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association

From: [Megan Price](#)
To: [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: letter in support of participating budgeting projects
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 6:05:35 PM

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Dear Committee members,

My children's school, Jefferson Elementary, was one of the winner's of Supervisor Melgar's participatory budgeting process. We plan to use the funds to replace the play structure in the kindergarten yard; the current one is quite old and falling into disrepair. Upgrading this play structure is vital to our youngest kids' physical activity and safety and we are excited to have this support from the city! The impact will be felt by students for years to come, ultimately affecting thousands of kids and their families. I hope that you will vote in favor of the participatory budget decisions.

Thank you,
Megan



September 3, 2024

Dear Supervisor Melgar, Budget and Finance Committee, District 7,

The Sunnyside Elementary School Principal, School Site Council (SSC) and Sunnyside PTA would like to extend the full support of the caregivers, teachers, and community members that make up our organization for the District 7 Participatory Budget funds and the positive impact these would have on our community.

We are already benefiting from last year's funds, which helped us upgrade our yard with a new artificial turf. The turf has been extremely positively received by our students and community - as a school that loves and encourages our soccer-playing children (as demonstrated by our intramural soccer trophy win from last year!), we would love to continue our yard updates to find even more ways to support outdoor education and enjoyment. Our schoolyard remains part of the Shared Schoolyard program and our friends and neighbors, who have access to the yard on weekends and holidays, have also enjoyed the use of our turf and yard.

Our learning garden is one of the highlights of our campus, with staff and volunteers from the parent and caregiver community really creating a wonderful experiential learning environment. We have not been able to make much needed updates to accommodate our community's needs in some time. The participatory budget funds would help us add storage and seating -- storage, so we can better utilize donations from the community without worrying about the effects of the elements, and seating, so that we can be more inclusive of our students with limited mobility, as well as our caregiver, community volunteers and neighborhood.

We are hoping to also extend these funds beyond the learning garden and into our yard. We'd like to add and/or replace seating, to again better accommodate our students with limited mobility (Sunnyside has a Special Day Class), and better support our community events in the yard. Our yard is host to Morning Meetings for students and caregivers on every school day, and the site of multiple events like our annual Fall Fest, Halloween



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Parade (Mayor Breed was a guest last year!), Rainbow Pride Day, MLK Social Justice and Kindness March, and various cultural celebrations, and updates will help us make these events comfortable and inclusive for a broader population. Any remaining funds would go toward our eventual update to our play structure, which also needs to be updated to be more inclusive. Given the current uncertainty of SFUSD's current finances, we are grateful for the opportunity to make these positive changes to our yard without needing to draw from the already-strained district budget. We know our neighbors and community will benefit enormously from the changes we intend for our truly shared schoolyard!

Thank you for your time and efforts.

On behalf of the Sunnyside Elementary Community and Neighborhood,

Sandie Spoering, PhD (Principal of Sunnyside Elementary and District 7 resident)

Janeen Smith (Sunnyside SSC Chair)

Abby Boudreau (Sunnyside PTA Chair)

250 Foerster Street, San Francisco, CA 94112.

Telephone: 415 469-4746, email: sch842@sfusd.edu